

# 1. Broken and Divided

The chapter opens with a provocative quote from the preface of *\*Oathbringer\**, hinting at the contentious and transformative nature of the revelations to come. Dalinar Kholin, a central figure, finds himself in a vision standing beside the memory of a dead god, Honor, amidst the ruins of Kholinar, his home city. This vision occurs shortly after Dalinar's forces arrive at Urithiru, seeking refuge from a devastating storm. Despite their escape, Dalinar feels overwhelmed and uncertain, struggling to comprehend the forces at play, including the storm's significance and the return of the ancient enemies known as the Voidbringers. His quest for understanding drives him to seek divine insight through visions.

Dalinar's visions serve as a cryptic form of divine communication, offering fragmented insights into the past, present, and possible futures. In this particular vision, he witnesses Kholinar in ruins, destroyed by an unknown destructive force. Dalinar, bonded with the Stormfather—an immensely powerful spren—uses his ability to traverse these visions at will to investigate the aftermath of the city's destruction. He perceives the chaos of shattered buildings, smashed storm formations, and claw marks suggesting a monstrous force. Despite the divine monologue he receives, Dalinar seeks concrete details, especially about the impending threats, and questions the nature of the destruction, which is linked to the return of the Voidbringers and the ominous Everstorm.

The narrative emphasizes the urgency of Dalinar's warnings about the approaching storm and the impending catastrophe. Though he has shared his concerns with leaders across Roshar, most dismiss his warnings, underestimating the storm's destructive potential. Dalinar recognizes that the Everstorm, which appeared suddenly and with unprecedented power, will return and devastate the land further, awakening the Parshendi and transforming them into Voidbringers. The storm's destructive cycle and

the failure of political leaders to heed his warnings leave Dalinar feeling isolated and desperate, as he attempts to piece together divine clues to prevent catastrophe while confronting the reality that traditional defenses and alliances are faltering.

In the final analysis, Dalinar reflects on the broader implications of the visions and the impending conflict. The ruined Kholinar symbolizes the coming destruction, not only of cities but of the entire world order. He perceives signs of a monstrous force capable of tearing through stone and flesh, hinting at the chaos that will ensue. The divine message suggests that the storm is merely a precursor to even greater calamities—an apocalyptic conflict driven by inscrutable enemies and ancient powers long thought dead. With the gods silent and the Knights Radiant diminished, Dalinar faces the overwhelming burden of preventing the ultimate desolation, knowing that hope hinges on fragile divine guidance and his own resolve to confront the encroaching darkness.